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Docket No.: 578492000510  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Rodolfo A. MORALES et al.

Application No.: 10/776,682

Confirmation No.: 3785

Filed: February 10, 2004

Art Unit: 3773

For: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR HEART  
VALVE REPAIR

Examiner: M. Ryckman

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 12, 2009, for which a response is due on April 12, 2009. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.